3rd March 1927] [Mr. K. V. R. Swami]

into power. The Justice Party had a majority of seats in the first three years and they were then in power. But during the second period of three years they were in power with the assistance of the Government votes . . ."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, in the budget of this year the Cauvery-Mettur project looms very large. This project has been before us for several years now and I should like to sound a note of warning regarding the way in which the expenditure on that project is being incurred without an irrigation law. Enormous expenditure is being incurred on that project. The staff consists of one Chief Engineer in charge of the whole operations, two Superintending Engineers, four Executive Engineers, one Electrical Engineer—all these on high pay—one Collector, eight Deputy Collectors and so on. Already large expenditure has been incurred. His Excellency the Governor was saying the other day that 37 miles of road had been completed and quarters for a gang of five thousand coolies had been built. In the budget of the current year the amount budgeted runs to one crore and though the whole amount is not likely to be spent, as much as 54 lakhs of rupees has been spent. For the coming year 1927–28 they have budgeted for an expenditure of Rs. 120 lakhs. And now the question is whether it will be safe to spend all this amount on this project or for the matter of that on any other big irrigation work without an irrigation law. Hon. Members will remember that the detailed estimate for this project runs to six crores and 12 lakhs of rupees. The chances are, as we know in all matters like this, that this estimate will be considerably increased by the time the work is over. When my hon. Friend the Law Member who is a very cautious and learned lawyer introduced the Irrigation Bill in this Council on the 6th February 1924 the burden of his song as I take it rightly, was that without an irrigation law, it would not be possible to spend large sums of money on such projects and he referred to the Mettur project among them in particular. He stated that on former occasions in 1909 and in previous years when this Government approached the Government of India for loans to carry out irrigation projects the Government of India refused the loan on the solitary ground that it was unsafe to carry on irrigation projects like that without an irrigation law and if they did so they would be involved in embarassing litigation. Again, the Law Member stated that this Government approached the Government of India with a similar request on another occasion and the same reply was given to them. Again the hon. the Law Member stated that he himself went in person, as we all know he did, and had personal consultation with the Viceroy and with the Members of the Government of India. Even then he had the same answer, namely, that without an irrigation law the Government of India would not be prepared to grant a loan. This he stated on 6th February 1924 in introducing the Bill. When the financial year was about to close in 1924 he stated that even though it would not be possible to pass the Bill before the close of the financial year, if a Bill was introduced and the principles thereof were accepted in this Council, the Government would approach the Government of India and tell them that this Council had committed itself to an irrigation law and induce them to grant the necessary loan. It was on that undertaking that we consented to the first reading of the Irrigation Bill in 1924.

" That was so long ago as the beginning of 1924. The Irrigation Bill was accepted by this Council ; it was referred to a Select Committee ; the 1 p.m.